

**REMARKS**

Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 24, 26-29, and 31 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 24, and 29 are the independent claims.

Claims 3, 4, 25, 30, 32-50, 52-79 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 5, and 6 have been amended. No new matter is believed to have been added.

Initially, Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 24, 26-29, 31, and 68 are allowed. By the present Amendment, none of claims 24, 26-29, and 31 have been amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims should remain allowed. Claim 68, a dependent claim that depended indirectly from claim 1, has been cancelled and independent claim 1 has been amended to recite all of the features of cancelled claim 68 as well as all of the features of the intervening claims. Thus, it is submitted that independent claim 1 is now in allowable form along with claims 2, 5, and 6, which depend from this independent claim.

The Office Action objected to claims 32 and 65 on formal grounds. These claims have been cancelled. Accordingly, it is submitted that this objection is moot.

Claim 64 and 65 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. These claims have been cancelled. Accordingly, it is submitted that this rejection is moot.

Claims 64 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as being indefinite. This claim has been cancelled. Accordingly, it is submitted that this rejection is moot.

All art rejections are respectfully submitted to be traversed for the reasons set forth above, -- namely the inclusion of subject matter indicated as patentably defining over the cited art into the sole independent claim not already allowed.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants submit that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not earlier presented because Applicants believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.


There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 7-12-07

By:   
Michael E. Kondoudis  
Registration No. 42,758

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501